

Response Rates for the 2015 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll were released on December 16, 2016. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of total employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the total employees must come from responses. The data for 2015 come from a sample of governments, therefore, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2015 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are fourteen states (Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. There are eight states (Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, and Texas) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. See the accompanying Table A.

For future survey years, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts will be taken to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical prior to release of the survey's estimates. Further research will be conducted on state and local governments to identify governmental units contributing to the low TQRRs in those noncompliant states.

Table A: Noncompliant Total Quantity Response Rates for the 2015 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

State	Total Employment Quantity Response Rate	Total Payroll Quantity Response Rate
State and Local Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Colorado	66.4%	68.3%
Massachusetts	65.0%	69.0%
Minnesota	62.2%	63.1%
Mississippi	65.8%	65.9%
Nebraska	64.8%	68.5%
New Hampshire	51.3%	49.8%
New Jersey	65.8%	65.6%
Washington	63.1%	66.9%
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Colorado	68.8%	72.5%
Connecticut	69.8%	71.1%
Louisiana	65.1%	64.3%
Massachusetts	53.7%	58.6%
Michigan	68.6%	66.8%
Minnesota	66.4%	65.8%
Mississippi	53.2%	51.8%
Montana	63.6%	64.0%
New Hampshire	54.0%	54.2%
New Jersey	68.1%	67.7%
Pennsylvania	72.9%	69.6%
Vermont	69.7%	69.9%
Washington	43.7%	51.7%
Wisconsin	69.2%	69.2%
State Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Colorado	60.9%	58.9%
Maryland	67.7%	67.7%
Minnesota	51.9%	57.5%
Nebraska	39.2%	42.0%
New Hampshire	44.9%	39.5%
New Jersey	60.0%	60.8%
Oregon	58.8%	57.3%
Texas	70.7%	68.3%